

28th District

News & Views

from your
State Representative



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Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The passage and impacts of Initiative 695 — and how the Legislature addresses this fundamental change in government — will be the overriding issue during the 60-day session this year.

No matter how you voted on I-695, you deserve our best effort in Olympia, not excuses or punishment for the election. I-695 can work and it's the Legislature's responsibility to see that it does.

Other key issues will surface this session as well. Property taxes are still too high and if the Legislature doesn't pass meaningful property tax reform, we could be looking at another initiative.

It is a pleasure and honor to serve as your state representative. If you happen to visit Olympia over the next few months, please make a point to stop by my office and say hello.

Sincerely,

Mike Carrell

MY GOALS FOR THE 2000 SESSION

- 1 Continue to build your trust** by changing the way government does business.
- 2 Provide meaningful property tax reform** by passing legislation to limit increases to 2 percent or the rate of inflation . . . whichever is lower.
- 3 Pass responsible, well-thought-out gun storage legislation**
- 4 Restore funding** for basic local government services.



QUALITY OF LIFE

RESPONSIBLE GUN STORAGE

It is our job as adults to protect minor children under our care. When those children are young, the burden of responsibility falls on adults. However as children grow older, they should accept more responsibility for their own actions. The law has long recognized this.

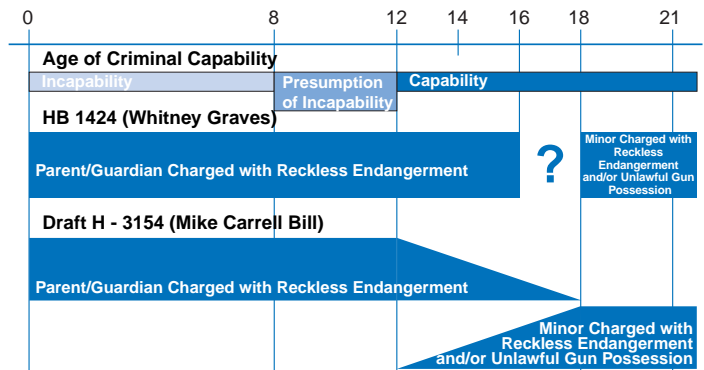
When addressing firearm responsibility, we must maintain a proper balance between protecting the constitutional right of people to lawfully defend themselves, while still holding people responsible for the abuse of that right.

As you may recall, last year I had concerns over a gun storage measure known as the Whitney Graves bill. Quite simply, the bill wouldn't have done what many people said it would. In order to come up with a reasonable alternative, I spent considerable time over the summer and fall months drafting new language. I gave careful consideration not only to the responsibilities of persons supervising or caring for

minor children, but also to the age, maturity and responsibility of the child. I also attempted to strike a balance between constitutional rights and penalties for abuse of those rights. After 40 different drafts, I believe the proper balance has been struck.

As you can see by the attached chart, the younger the minor...the more responsibility falls on the adult. Conversely, as that minor grows older, he or she must begin to accept responsibility for his or her actions.

Reckless Endangerment – Unlawful Gun Possession Who Should be Charged?



SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS AND COMMUNITIES

- Make sure local criminal justice is funded.
- Make the third DUI conviction a felony.
- Increase penalties for identity theft.
- Restore funding for Becca laws.

I believe there is no more essential function of government than to provide for the safety of its citizens. People should not have to worry when walking through their neighborhoods, driving to the store or putting their children in the care of another adult. As local governments are looking to prioritize services, we will not let those decisions come at the expense of you and your family's safety.

I am committed to that.

3 CONSIDERATIONS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DRAFTING MY GUN STORAGE BILL

- Balance the rights and responsibilities of gun ownership
- Whitney Graves Bill assumes a person cannot be charged with reckless endangerment.
- My bill assumes a person can be charged with reckless endangerment.
- English Common Law (codified in Washington law in 1975)



INITIATIVE 695

I share your frustration with government's incessant demand for higher taxes and unchecked appetite for increased spending. People are paying too much for government services and your tax dollars can and should be used more efficiently.

Initiative 695 is a great opportunity to change the way government does business at every level of government. By reforming government, we can control taxes and deliver services to you as cost-effectively as possible, while still funding essential functions threatened by I-695, such as public safety and highway construction.

I will not allow government to punish people for passing I-695. Government should be responsive, efficient and fair...not offering excuses for more spending or cutting of vital services.



PROPERTY TAXES

As I've been telling many of my fellow representatives, if the Legislature doesn't do something about out-of-control property taxes, the public will. And I won't blame you one bit. We simply cannot have property taxes increasing at six times the rate of inflation, and doubling every eight years as is currently happening.

Last session, very little was done to curb rising property taxes...despite several bills I designed to do so. This year, I will reintroduce many of the same measures as last year. I also plan to sponsor a bill which would limit property taxes from being raised more than the rate of inflation or 2 percent, whichever is lower. This bill would also protect against "spikes" you see in your assessments by allowing the state to absorb the cost of anything above a 6 percent increase. That money, with interest, would be repaid at the time you sell your house. It's the same type of deferral program already offered to seniors, but should be expanded to everyone.

ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX LEGISLATION

- Reduce the inflation factor for the state property tax to zero over the next 10 years.
- Further clarify Referendum 47 by not allowing tax revenue generated through a finding of "substantial need" to increase the base for future revenue limit calculations.
- Limit "banking" of levy capacity to a one-year look-back.
- Prohibit taxing districts from using rate capacity created by a reduction of the state rate below \$3.60.
- Shift the burden of proof from the taxpayer to the taxing authority when there is a property tax dispute.
- Improve assessment practices by establishing standards and oversight.



Representative **Mike Carrell** • 28th District

HOW DO WE IMPLEMENT I-695?

Your message was clear in your survey answers.

IDEAS WHICH SHOULD BE UNDER CONSIDERATION

- Set priorities by re-evaluating programs and eliminating those which are wasteful or ineffective.
- Allow state government to competitively bid with the private sector for services. Currently, this practice is illegal — even if it would deliver the same service at a lower cost.
- Allow cities and counties to keep a portion of the local sales tax they normally pay to the state.
- Introduce and pass legislation to clarify any constitutional questions and/or legal challenges to I-695.

IDEAS WHICH SHOULD NOT BE UNDER CONSIDERATION

- Tax increases
- Cutting vital services

CONTROLLING TAXES AND MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK FOR YOU — A 2000 LEGISLATIVE SESSION PREVIEW

INSIDE:

- Changing the way government does business
- Controlling taxes you pay and the money your government spends
- Property taxes — where's the relief?
- Responsibility in gun safety

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